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1993 The Preferred Newsletter for Milwaukee

December

Area computer Enthusiasts since 1981



Christmas and a Prosperous Atari New Year

Inside this Issue: PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS Dave Glish

> MilAtari Bulletin **Board**

BATTERY DELEMA: Armin Baier

ST PD Update: Dennis Wilson

MilAtari Board Proposal

Atari Production reported on GEnie

Odds and Ends: Armin

Tid Bits: Armin R. Baier

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This Month:

General Meeting XMAS PARTY

Saturday . Dec. 18th- Noon Greenfield Park Lutheran Church 1236 S. 115th St

December Meeting 18th - Noon.

Executive Board Meeting

(All members invited) Sunday, Jan. 2 - 7:00 p.m. [tentative] Shakey's Pizza 96th & National Ave.

President announcement :

We are still plagued by a major problem and a major nuisance. We need volunteers for the SIG organizer, Mac PD dean, and public relation personnel.

Membership

MilAtari is open to all individuals and families interested in computing. Annual dues are \$22 per membership and includes a one year subscription to the Limited Edition, access to the Publications Library, and allows purchases from all Public Domain Libraries and the Resale Shop.

Meetings

MilAtari Meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of each month at Greenfield Park Lutheran Church, 1236 S. 115th St. The doors open at noon. Members socialize during the initial hour while browsing through the libraries. Purchases can be made from the PD offerings and club and/ or member sale merchandise. The current PD selections are demonstrated during the milling period, followed by the business meeting at 1:00 p.m. Special helps and classes available afterward.

MilAtari By-Laws

Section XII, Article 1

Piracy of legally copyrighted software, hardware or documentation is hereby recognized as illegal and a detriment to the goals of MilAtari Ltd., and shall not be sanctioned by MilAtari Ltd.

MilAtari Ltd. The Milwaukee Area Atari Users Group Post Office Box 14038

West Allis, WI 53214 **Flected Officers**

_			
President	Dave Glish	784-9053	
VP-ST	Ed Newman	628-2556	
Treasurer	Bruce Rahlf	483-0464	
Secretary	Linda Heinrich	421-2376	

Appointed Officers [Chair-persons]

BBS Sysop	Help Wanted	
Editor	Joe Mengel	264-0142
Special Events	Armin Baier M.D.	774-1673
Software Libr.	Help Wanted	
Copyright Libr.	Help Wanted	
Membership	Rick Janowski	647-2750
SIG	Help Wanted	
Publications	Help wanted	

Assistants and Notable Volunteers

T	he Distinguished	
Sysop Asst.	Carl Verbanac	453-3940
ST Suppl.	Bill Janutka	543-7609
MAC PD	Help Wanted	
Diagnostics	Help Wanted	
Kid's Korner	Chuck Dahms	257-3040

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The Editor gladly accepts submissions by mail, on floppy disc, sent in ASCII (preferably) or any other standard word processing format using absolutely no formatting within the doc, as in tabbing, indenting, centering, bold, italics, etc. For information on placing ads, contact the Editor. Submissions may also be made through either MilAtari BBS in the "Newsletter" room or file sig.

All of this publication is produced on Atari Mega computers and printed on an SLM 804 using Ditek's CALAMUS. Newsletter office hours are variable. The Editor has an answering machine; and questions may also be answered by Dr. Armin Baier, or on Basement BBS in the Newsletter room.





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Happy Holidays everyone. I hope to see all of you a the annual December Holiday party. Coffee and soda will be provided, please bring a treat to pass.

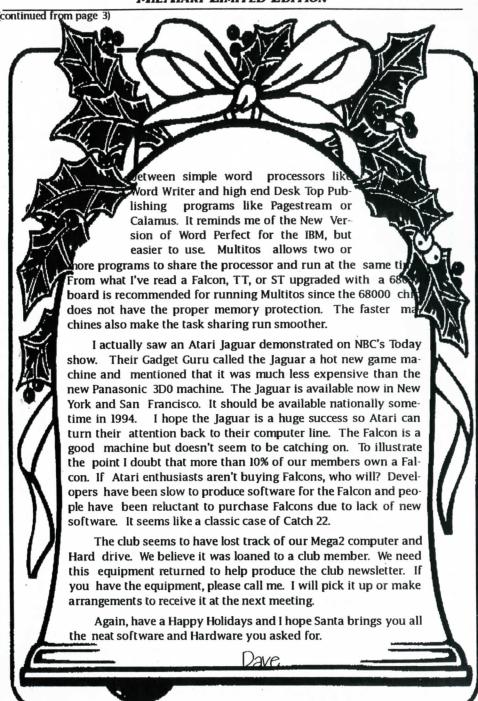
PRESIDENTIAL

Christmas Greeting

If you didn't attend the November meeting you missed out on some good discussions. we talked about the future of MilAtari and the direction we should take. Some people feel that the club should remain strictly Atari. They feel a multiplatform club will spell the end for Atari support in our club. Looking at the poor response for volunteers to fill the vacant club positions, I wonder if this may already be taking place. I hope not for the clubs sake. If we go multiplatform, we will need more volunteers, not fewer. We also talked about the state of Atari Corp. Their stock has been constantly rising and with the new Jaguar out it should continue to go up (too bad I didn't buy stock when it was at 5/8ths).

Another topic discussed at our meeting was our BBS. Rich Dankert has decided to resign as Sysop, due to his increased workload and responsibilities at his business. The club BBS is still down. We will be deciding how to restart the BBS at the next board meeting. We discussed asking Armin Baier to allow his BBS to become the official club BBS. Armin has been operating a BBS out of his home for about a year now.

Michelle Gross will be giving a demonstration of Atariworks and Multitos at the December meeting. Atariworks is the new Word Processing program from Atari. It fits nicely



ST Public Domain

Dennis Wilson

ST PUBLIC DOMAIN DISKS TO BE ADDED TO THE LIBRARY IN DECEMBER 1993

MilAtari Ltd. St Public Domain Library Disks are available at the meeting at a price of \$1.75 per disk for Disks 1-300, which are single-sided, and \$3.50 per disk for Disks 301 up, which are double-sided. All disks are available through mail order for an additional \$.50 per disk. Special package prices may also be in effect at club meetings for certain disks or quantities of disks. The charge for the disks covers the cost of the media and handling, with all proceeds going to support the activities activities of Some of the programs on these disks have been released as MilAtari Ltd. shareware and are so documented in the programs themselves. MilAtari Ltd. supports the shareware concept and you are encouraged to make donations to the individual authors should you find their programs useful. lAtari PD Libraries are intended to provide a repository for useful and interesting programs, and each file is tested before inclusion on the disk. We believe that each file is worthy of your consideration. No warranty is expressed nor implied, however, as to their content or usability. Defective disks will be gladly replaced. These disks are made available for sale at the the monthly club meeting and may be ordered in advance by posting a message in the Library Lounge on the club BBS. Librarians of other clubs are encouraged to contact our ST Librarian concerning trading of programs in their respective libraries.

DISK 449 - UTILITY DISK

CONNET12: Connections V1.2 Interactive Multimedia Networking - Connections links the following multimedia family members into your own custom interactive presentation with graphics, text files, sounds & animation: 1) Digitized sounds (Replay format using the extension .SPL), 2) Degas full size parent screens (using the .PI3 extension), 3) Smaller graphic picture blocks (using the extension .DAT), 4) Multiple block animation files (with the extension .ANI), 5) Standard ASCII text files (up to 80 columns with the extension .TXT), f and 6) External applications (run other programs .PRG from within a family). Connections requires a monochrome monitor. You should have at least one megabyte of memory and a hard drive. Changes to this version include: 1) Automatic loading of animation files. If you name your animation graphic blocks (.ANI) using numbers at the beginning or end of the filename, Connections will auto-load the entire animation at once. 2)

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ST PD

continued from previous page

Animation now supports "pingpong". This feature cycles the animation back and forth (forwards and backwards) in a continuous loop. 3) Better error correction and use of memory. Delete the opening screen CONNECT.PI3 to save memory.

FL_CAT14: The File Catalog V1.4 - A simple utility that keeps track of the files on a disk or hard drive partition and allows you to monitor changes to your files. The program reads in all the files on a disk or partition and stores them in a file. Later, a new list can be generated and the old and new lists can be automatically compared to see what has changed. The 'delta' of the old and new file lists will show all files that have been deleted, added, or changed (size or date). FileCat can now also back-up those files that have been added or changed, with a simple menu command. You select the path that you want back-ups sent to and the either manually select files to copy to the back-up path or select a command to back-up all files added or changed as identified in the delta list. This allows for very easy and reliable incremental back-ups.

MB28ABIN: MasterBrowse V2.8a - A replacement text file viewer for any Atari computer, in any resolution with a size greater than or equal to 640 X 200. It offers many features that the Atari text file viewer does not: 1) It works with MultiTOS, and should work with other multitasking operating systems. 2) It has an extremely fast GEM user interface, which makes use of raster copy screen updates, GDOS fonts, pull down menus, progress displays, windows, optional non-modal dialog boxes (and alert boxes), colour, and more. It also provides keyboard equivalents for every single function. 3) It allows you to have a virtually unlimited number of documents open at the same time, restricted only by the number of free window handles and the amount of memory available. 4) It can use the command line (of course) to open documents (or open a document batch). 5) It allows you to use all of your familiar movement keys. You can use the arrow keys, the application keypad, or the spacebar and the return key. 6) It allows you to move in any direction inside a document. You can also tell it how far it should move when the movement keys are pressed.

PICSW101: PicSwitch V1.0.1, Graphics File Viewer/Printer - This is the long-awaited update to PicSwitch, the award-winning graphics utility from Advanced Software. This version actually bears no resemblance to its predecessor, being totally rewritten with a standard GEM interface with enhancements. Many new input formats have been added, as well as a new 'Adjustments' control panel, windowed displays, and much-enhanced printing support for Epson 9-pin, 24-pin and HP LaserJet compatibles. This will also, unfortunately, be the final update, as the author has retired from the Atari platform and switched to the Mac. This version was originally in-

(continued from previous page)

tended as a commercial release.

SEARCHER: Searcher Deluxe V2.01 - A program that does the Spring cleaning on your disks. The program will search for files on any GEM formatted/partitioned drive, including floppy drives, hard disk drives (including 32 MB Partitions!), and ram disks.

DISK 450 - DEMO/XMAS DISK

CIVIL: Civilization - A demo of the most enthralling "god game" yet developed from the creator of Railroad Tycoon. It lets you match wits with history's greatest leaders. You start at the dawn of recorded history, 4,000 B.C. and the founding of the first cities, then nurture your society toward the Space Age. In the beginning, you will labor to simply survive while building your settlements, discovering new technologies and fending off barbarians. As your empire prospers, you'll face competing civilizations guided by history's most legendary figures: Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Genghis Khan, Julius Caesar and more. Now you'll test your capacity for expansion and domination, your ability to outwit and out maneuver those cunning and brilliant leaders. In the game, you'll discover new technologies, build wonders of the world, and determine the fate of your people. You can choose from flexible starting options so players of all levels can have fun and be challenged. Select from 5 difficulty settings while playing on Earth or on a new planet generated fro each game. Enjoy the easy to use point-and-click, icon-based interface. Virtually any game-related question or concern is addressed in the on-line "civilopedia".

XMASMYST: A text file containing the poem, "A Christmas Mystery".

XMAS_TN3: A folder containing 20 clipart pictures in Tiny format. When uncompressed, they are high resolution pictures. In tiny format, however, they can be viewed in medium resolution.

XMAS_ALL: A text file containing a list of how to say "Merry Christmas" in many languages.

Dennis





From: George Seto

For the first bug of Christmas, my manager said to me See if they can do it again.

For the second bug of Christmas, my manager said to me Ask them how they did it and; See if they can do it again. For the third bug of Christmas, my manager said to me Try to reproduce it Ask them how they did it and See if they can do it again.

For the fourth bug of Christmas, my manager said to me Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it Ask them how they did it and See if they can do it again. For the fifth bug of Christmas, my manager said to me Ask for a dump Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it Ask them how they did it and See if they can do it again.

For the sixth bug of Christmas, my manager said to me
Reinstall the software Ask for a dump
Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it
Ask them how they did it and See if they can do it again.

For the seventh bug of Christmas, my manager said to me Say they need an upgrade Reinstall the software Ask for a dump Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it Ask them how they did it and See if they can do it again.

For the eighth bug of Christmas, my manager said to me
Find a way around it Say they need an upgrade
Reinstall the software Ask for a dump
Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it
Ask them how they did it an See if they can do it again.

For the ninth bug of Christmas, my manager said to me Blame it on the hardware Find a way around it Say they need an upgrade Reinstall the software Ask for a dump Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it Ask them how they did it and See if they can do it again.

For the tenth bug of Christmas, my manager said to me
Change the documentation Blame it on the hardware
Find a way around it Say they need an upgrade
Reinstall the software Ask for a dump
Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it
Ask them how they did it and See if they can do it again.

For the eleventh bug of Christmas,y manager said to me Say it's not supported Change the documentation Blame it on the hardware Find a way around it Say they need an upgrade Reinstall the software Ask for a dump Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it Ask them how they did it and See if they can do it again.

For the twelf th bug of Christmas,my manager said to me
Tell them it's a feature Say it's not supported
Change the documentation Blame it on the hardware
Find a way around it Say they need an upgrade
Reinstall the software Ask for a dump
Run with the debugger Try to reproduce it
Ask them how they did it and
See if they can do it again.

Twas the night before crisis and all through the house. Not a program was working, not even a browse, The programmers were wrung out, too mindless to care, Knowing chances of cutover hadn't a prayer. The users were nestled all snug in their beds. While visions of inquizies danced in their heads. When out in the lobby there arose such a clatter. That I sprang from my cube to see what was the matter. And what to my wondering eyes should appear. But a Super Programmer, oblivious to fear Mre rapid than eagles, his programs they came And he whistled and shouted and called them by name, On Update! On Add! On Inquiry! On Delete! On Batch Jobs! On Closing! On Functions Complete. His eyes were glazed over his fingers were lean, From weekends and nights in front of a screen. A wink of his eye, and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread, He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, Turning specs into code, then he turned with a jerk And laying his fingers upon the ENTER key, The system came up, and worked perfectly. The updates, updated; the deletes, they deleted: The inquiries, inquired; and the closing completed. He tested each whistle, he tested each bell, With nazy an abend, and all had gone well, The system was finished, the tests were concluded, The customes's last changes were even included!

And the customer exclaimed with a sneet and a taunt, "It's just what I asked for, but it's not what I want,"

- Anonymous

Batteries in Portable Equitment Armin R Baier M.D.

Many of us use rechargable batteries in various portable equipment, (instruments and tools). And most have found problems and would like to use \$*&_±@!*\%\$ language when we find their useful life spent or short. I have had such difficulties with the batteries in my CamCorder, in my Flashlights; and now we are experiencing problems in the portable computers. The nickel cadmium battery is best use by completely discharging the battery before applying a charge; otherwise it reduces the storage of energy. I one uses only twenty five percent (25%) of the power off the top of a charged battery, it seems to remember and after being recharged will only supply or dischare the top twenty five (25%) on succeeding uses. Then, too, rechargeable batteries come in many different sizes and

shapes and capacities. Supposing after using you tool for a year or so, the manufacturer discontinues that model or goes bankrupt with no reliable supplier, and a replacement (rare) battery cost ten time the original cost when you purchased the tool. Then you have a useless tool!! Especial with computers (laptops, etc) ask about the battery life, and supply and replacement warranty. Most of the new manufactures of equipment are using the new nickel Metal hydride batteries which should last about twice as long. Some of the flashlight manufacturies are using rechargable alkaline batteries which should be able to recharged about 25 times. If we all complain about the life of our batteries, maybe the manufacturers will make more standard and interchangable batteries for our tools and our computers.

Armin

This is Advent, the begining of the holiday season, I would like to wish each and every one of you a happy and joyous tide with family and friends. I hope the New Year gains for all of us; health, wealth and wisdom. Armin



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MilAtari Board Proposal

It was proposed, discussed and seconded at the December 5, board meeting that the MilAtari Newsletter be recorded on a three and one half (3 1/2") inch floppy disk and distributed to the members and interested parties at the club meeting. Those not present may receive the newsletter in the mail. The Monthly newsletter would also be installed in the Newsletter Room of MilAtari's BBS in ASCII and could be downloaded to all computers; 8-bit, ST, TT, IBM, or MAC. This proposal will be presented for discussion at the December Club meeting. The MilAtari Board Meeting that had been tentatively scheduled for December 26, has been canceled. The Board will make a final decision to meet on January 2, 1994 at the general meeting; the Christmas Party meeting of December 18, 1993.

Armin

Falcon030 is the only product officially in Atari's current computer line. Atari hasn't officially announced that the STE/MSTE/TT030 are discontinued (yet), but the Falcon030 is the only one currently in production. The GE-Soft Eagle (the TT030 clone, which is a lot better than the original TT030 -- the ENTIRE machine runs at 50MHz, has 2 VME slots, and can be easily upgraded to a 68040) is set to go into production at any time (if not already) and will reportedly cost around DM4000-DM5000 (about \$2500-\$3200 at current exchange rates). It sounds like Atari's going to license TOS to them (if they haven't already). (STEVE-J, CAT14, TOP41, MSG:201/M475)

This information obtained from GEnie December 93 Issue #364



Give a surprise present to your MilAtari Newsletter editor and publisher. Write and article about your experience about computers; one paragraph or several pages. Every bit is welcome.



Armin

Holiday Greetings Around the World

Austria Frőhliche Weihnachten Belgian Vrolijke Kerstmis Bulgaria Chestita Koleda Croatia Srećan Božić Czechoslovakia Vesele Vanoce Denmark Glaedelig Jul Estonia Roomsaid Joulu Puhi Finland Hauskaa Joulua France Joyeux Noël Germany Frőhliche Weinachten Kala Christougena Greece Holland Zalig Kerstfeest **Ireland** Nodlaig Nait Cugat Italy **Bono Natale** Priecigus Ziemas Svetkus Latvia Linksmu Sventu Kaleduir Lithuania Norway Gledelig Jul Poland Wesolvch Swiat Portugal **Boas Festas** Russia S Roshestvóm Khristóvym Scotland Noliag Chridheil Serbia Hristos se rodi Spain Feliz Navidad Sweden Glad Jul Switzerland Frőliche Weinachten The Ukraine Chrystos Rozdzajetsia Slawyte Jeho Wales Nadolig Llawen

The MilAtari Bulletin Board is non-function; both hard drives have crashed. In the meantime the members of MilAtari Ltd and friend are welcome and encourged to use the Basement BBS of Armin Baier M.D. The phone number is

(414) 475-6768. It is easy to learn how to use and get around in the BBS. Each room and partiion has instruction of how to use the particular area. If you go on as a visitor or as a new member I will try to get on the BBS daily to varify your participation and give you extented previledges. Use the BBS for your needs both as a MilAtari club member and to communicate with your friends. If you have any questions, call me at 774-1673.

Armin

MILATARI LTD. BULLETIN BOARD

Your official source of club news and information

Want to see YOUR name in PRINT? Add your NAME to this list of phone YOLUNTEERS TO ANSWER COMPUTER PROBLEMS

The following MilAtari members have offered to answer your computer questions and problems. Often the best procedure and method is to put the questions on the MilAtari Bulletin Board. (414-476-9229). If you have no access to the BBS or the trouble shooter is unavailable on the BBS, these volunteers have offered to try to answer you question by phone. Please be courteous & make your calls before 10pm, unless otherwise arranged:

	Chuck Dahms		Atari Games, and Puzzles of all kinds.	
	Carl Verbanac	(414) 453-3940	MilAtari BBS, and help finding PD disks	
	Dennis Wilson	(414) 546-0282	PD Disks problems and general Atari	
			and PC knowledge.	
	Dave Glish	(414) 784-9053	with GEnie, and many software programs	
	Armin Baier	(414) 774-1673	WordWriter, DataManager ST, SwiftCalc	
	Michelle Gross	(414) 628-4435	DTP with PageStream or Calamus	
	Dave Landskron	(414) 111-1111	Basic Lang GEM& GIF Pics & Viewers	
MilAtari would like to add YOU to this list of Volunteers who would be available to answer questions regarding hardware and software problems.				

he December general meeting, our Christmas party, remains scheduled for Saturday December 18 at 12 noon. Bring some kind of treat that you can share with the other members. Soft drinks, coffee and tea will be provided by the club. Michelle Gross will be demonstrating ATARIWORKS throughout the meeting. If there is interest and time Dave and Michelle Gross will also be demonstrating another program called MULTITOS. At the present time the Board meeting is rescheduled for the 2nd of January at Shakey's Pizza at Shakey's Pizza, 96th and National Avenue. The shut down of the MilAtari STadel Bulletin Board is still in need of two (2) hard drives. In the meantime there is a substitute running; The Basement BBS at Armin Baier home. Phone 475-6768. All member who call and leave their statistic will be validated within a few days to all the previledges of MilAtari members. We are still hoping to have some generous Christmas door prizes. All members are welcome to come to the Board meeting. Bring a friend who is interested in computers to the December Christmas party.



My computer has a microchip on its shoulder. I know because it insists on doing a procedure in its own ideocyncratic way.



Armin